velopment Corporation Limited (NIDC), for the year 1998-99. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 485/98]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry) and Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited, for the year 1998-99 [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 486/98]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry) and Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited for the year 1998-99. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 484/98]

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Industry, Department of Heavy Industry) and H.M.T. Limited, for the year 1998-99. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 750/98]

IV. Public Enterprises Survey for the year 1996-97 Annual Report on the working of the Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government (Volumes 1 to 3). [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 518/98]

I. Report (1996-97) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

II. Appropriation Accounts (1996-97) of Telecommunication and Postal Services.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): Sir, I lay on the Table under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports:—

I. Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 1997 (No. 6 of 1998)—Union Government (Post and Telecommunications). [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 500/98]

II. (i) Appropriation Accounts for the year 1996-97 (Telecommunication Services). [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 502/98]

(ii) Appropriation Accounts for the year 1996-97 (Postal Services). [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 501/98]

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE TOBACCO BOARD

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): Sir, I move the following Motion:—

> "That in pursuance of clause (b) of sub-section 4 of Section 4 of the Tabacco Board Act, 1975 (IV of 1975), read with Rule 4 (1) of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct one Member from among the Members of the House to serve as a Member of the Tobacco Board constituted under the said Act".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI K.M. KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, Hyderabad.

SHRI WASIM AHMAD (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, Hyderabad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow. Not today. ...(*Interruptions*)....

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the law and order situation is very well under control in Hyderabad. They need not worry about that. About 600 persons have been rounded up. An inquiry has been ordered. There is nothing to worry about it. My sincere appeal to you is not to allow this. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)

Nothing will go on record. I have already given the decision. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Nothing will go on record.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you come to the well of the House...*(Interruptions)*... Some hon. Members met me this morning and I told them that the House can take up this issue tomorrow. Today, other business is there. Tomorrow, after the Question Hour, we can take up this issue as the first thing.

SOME HON. MEMEBRS: Thank you, Sir.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Widespread Violation fo Labour Laws

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, human distress is never a matter of concern in this country. We have been discussing about economic. fundamentals, we have been talking about economic slow-down, we have been talking about technology, but the man who runs the machine is always ignored and is made a victim. There is no concern for him. We have been concerned about the decline in agricultural production. But the question of enforcement of minimum wages in the agricultural sector was never considered or implemented by the successive Governments. Sir, violation of labour laws is widespread in the country. Why is the labour force being given a raw deal? That is the primary question. Kindly consider that the labour force of the country constitutes not less than 30 to 40 crores of the total population of the country. The defaulters have not paid provident fund dues which are in the region of Rs. 500 crores. There have been very few cases wherein action has been taken against defaulters. Unfortunately, it is the jute industry which is found to be the most delinquent in this respect. Sir, factories and offices have been closed without giving any notice and without taking recourse to the legal forum. Thousands of workwes and employees have been thrown out of employment mercilessly by the employers both in the private sector as well as in the public sector. But the illegality is sought to be condoned. Sir, gratuity is being denied to thousands of workers even after their retirement. Contract labour, casual labour in the unorganised sector who constitute 90 per cent of the labour force today are beyond any form of protection of social security. So far as health insurance to the labour force in the country is concerned, it has almost come to a collapse. The rate of minimum wage has not been revised over the years, may be over decades. Even when it is revised, it is not being implemented. Sir, what is worse is there is a lingering and mounting problem of non-payment of wages, delayed wages not only in the private sector but also in the public sector. The Central Government and State Governments are found to be guilty of violating the law concerning the payment of wages. There are serious loopholes in the law. What is there in the law is only on paper. The Parliament which makes the law is found to be completely incompetent and unconcerned with regard to its enforcement. Sir, there is hardly any machinery to enforce the labour laws in the country. It is not the private sector which is in default, but the public sector also. Not less than 50,000 workers belonging to the public sector under the Central Government have not been paid their wages over months. I am glad that the Commerce Minister is sitting here. The Tea Trading Corporation comes under his Ministry. The workers in the Tea Trading Corporation have not been paid their wages for over 8 months. If Mr. Hegde can get his salary as a Minister, why should not the workers in the Tea Trading Corporation be paid their wages? Sir, this is not the only issue, even the workers in the National Textile Corporation in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal have not been paid their wages. Sir, the workers of the IDPL unit at Hyderabad have not been paid their wages. The Hyderabad City has been referred to as a riot-torn city. The workers of the IDPL